

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 OES-07 DLOS-09 /081 W

-----095142 290801Z /21

P R 290210Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2558

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1206

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG PLOS EAID EFIS XP

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM - COMMENTS

1. AT A SMALL DINNER GIVEN BY THE NEW ZEALAND HICOM LAST NIGHT FOR NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE MADE.

2. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON SAID TO ME THAT HE HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS THE SOUTH PACIFIC FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS IT WAS IN OFFICE BUT THOSE DOUBTS WERE COMPLETELY DISPELLED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S STATEMENTS AT THE ANZUS MEETING. MULDOON SAID HE HAD VERY SATISFACTORY TALKS WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND NOW FELT RELAXED AND PLEASED ABOUT US POLICY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

3. PRIME MINISTER TAISI TUPUOLA EFI OF WESTERN SAMOA WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE CONVERSATION THEN ASKED WHY THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT MORE FORTHCOMING WITH ECONOMIC AID FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

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HE SAID HE WAS QUITE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE USG WOULD POUR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE DO ALMOST NOTHING FOR WESTERN SAMOA, TONGA AND OTHER NEARBY ISLAND STATES. I TRIED TO ANSWER IN TERMS OF HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITIES, BUDGETARY PROCESS, ETC., BUT HE WAS NOT OPEN TO EXPLANATIONS.

4. BOTH PRIME MINISTERS THEN TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO TTPI, GUAM AND THE QUESTION OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES. THEY WANTED TO KNOW THE USG ATTITUDE ABOUT OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES DEALING WITH TTPI AND GUAM ON THIS TOPIC. I REPLIED THAT I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON ON THE MATTER AND KNEW THAT THIS WAS A VERY SPECIALIZED SUBJECT. HOWEVER, I SAID THAT WHILE THE USG MIGHT NOT REPEAT NOT INTERPOSE OBJECTIONS TO INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH TTPI AND GUAM ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES, I BELIEVED THE USG WOULD VERY STRONGLY MAINTAIN THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED BY WASHINGTON. THEY SAID THAT IF I COULD GET FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE USG ATTITUDE, THEY WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ME AGAIN BEFORE THE FORUM MEETINGS ENDED.

5. PLZASE ADVISE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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